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PAGE 001
12 [redacted] SEP 83

[redacted] DIRECTOR.

Pinochet Ugarte
Augusto

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1. IN [redacted] SEP SPEECH PRESIDENT ((PINOCHET)) STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING A PLEBISCITE ON MODIFYING THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ON THE LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM. WHILE STILL HEDGED, THIS PINOCHET'S CLEAREST PUBLIC ADMISSION THAT HE IS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH A CONGRESS ELECTED BEFORE 1990. PINOCHET ALSO SAID THAT COUNCILS FOR COMMUNES (LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS) AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS (CODERES) WOULD BE BROUGHT INTO BEING. GREMIALISTAS FAVORABLE TO AN OPENING HAVE LONG ADVOCATED LAUNCHING BOTH ORGANIZATIONS.

2. THE OPPOSITION IS NOT RUNNING TO FILL THIS OPENING AND ON 9 SEP THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (AD) SURPRISINGLY ANNOUNCED THAT CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT WERE BEING SUSPENDED. [redacted] THE SUSPENSION IS DUE TO CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) PRESIDENT GABRIEL ((VALDES)), WHO WAS PIQUED THAT HE AND SEVERAL OTHER PDC LEADERS WERE HIT BY A WATER CANNON DURING DEMONSTRATIONS ON 8 SEP. TWO AD LEADERS ARE HOME IN BED WITH COLDS AFTER GETTING SOAKED WITH VALDES. (THE CARABINEROS WHO RUN THE WATER CANNON HAVE BECOME FOLK HEROS IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES AND TO PEOPLE WITH LOW SENSES OF HUMOR. THE WATER CANNONS ARE REFERRED TO AS GABRIEL'S SHOWER. (WHILE THERE WERE A FEW CASES IN WHICH POLICE REACTIONS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED EXCESSIVE OVER ALL THE CARABINEROS SHOWED RESTRAINT.)

3. THE OFFICIAL REASONS FOR THE AD'S SUSPENSION OF

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SECRET [redacted]

12 Sep 83

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT WERE THAT THE GOVERNMENT FAILED TO PRODUCE A TIMETABLE FOR A RETURN TO DEMOCRACY, THE PRESIDENT AND INTERIOR MINISTER ((JARPA)) HAD MADE PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT IN THE BEST INTERSTS OF DIALOG, LABOR LEADER RODOLFO ((SEGUEL)) HAD BEEN ARRESTED, AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD USED UNNECESSARY VIOLENCE IN REPRESSING THE DEMONSTRATIONS OF 8 SEP. BY 10 SEP AD LEADERS INCLUDING RADICAL PARTY PRESIDENT ENRIQUE ((SILVA)) CIMMA WERE EMPHASIZING THAT THE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT HAD ONLY BEEN SUSPENDED AND WOULD BE RESUMED.

4. ON THE NIGHTS OF 9, 10 AND EVEN 11 SEPTEMBER THERE WERE DEMONSTRATIONS HELD IN POOR NEIGHBORHOODS WITH A FEW DEATHS REPORTED. THESE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE OF REDUCED POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE BECAUSE THE NEIGHBORHOODS ARE OFTEN THE SITES OF UNREST. SOME INDIVIDUALS KILLED DURING THESE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE SHOT BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, DRIVING THROUGH THE AREA IN UNMARKED CARS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS SUGGESTED THESE PERSONS ARE MARXIST TERRORISTS, PARTICULARLY MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR). THE OPPOSITION, AND SOME EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS, CLAIM CARABINEROS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES WERE DOING THE SHOOTING AND THERE IS ONE REPORT OF SHOTS BEING FIRED FROM A CARABINERO VEHICLE.

5. THE PRO-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS ON 9 AND 11 SEP WERE ABOUT WHAT ONE MIGHT EXPECT. THERE WERE ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS SHEPHERDED INTO PLACE BY GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, MANY OF WHICH CLOSED ON 9 SEP SO THEIR EMPLOYEES COULD ATTEND THE CELEBRATIONS. THERE WERE PERHAPS 75,000 TO 80,000 MARCHERS AND OBSERVERS AT THE 9 SEP PARADE AND MANY FEWER ON 11 SEP. THEIR REACTION, HOWEVER, WAS PROBABLY SUFFICIENT TO BUOY PINOCHET'S SPIRITS AND GIVE HIM A GREATER DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE.

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6. [redacted]